# Executive Proclamation

## State of South Dakota
## Office of the Governor

***Whereas,*** On Sunday, June 2, 1996, Thomas Edward Opoien was ordained at his home church, The Lutheran Church of Dell Rapids, and on June 16, 1996, he answered the call to ministry at Lutheran Memorial Church and Grace Lutheran Church in Pierre and Hayes, South Dakota; and,

***Whereas,*** Pastor Tom has served his congregations with prayerful reflection and compassionate reverence and with the unreserved assistance of his beloved wife, Gail, and their own joyous gifts from God, Joseph and Olivia; and,

***Whereas,*** During his 8 years in Pierre, Pastor Tom has labored with unceasing toil in the performance of acts of gracious benevolence as demonstrated in his 121 baptisms, 63 weddings, 68 funerals, 765 sermons, and the confirmation of 236 young South Dakotans; and,

***Whereas,*** Pastor Tom has shown tireless dedication to the programmatic ministry at Lutheran Memorial, including Sunday and Wednesday School, Wednesday night worship, confirmation, men's Bible study, sixty plus, quilting, camping, backpacking trips, pheasant hunting, goose hunting, flipping pancakes, crawdad boils and other duties as assigned; and,

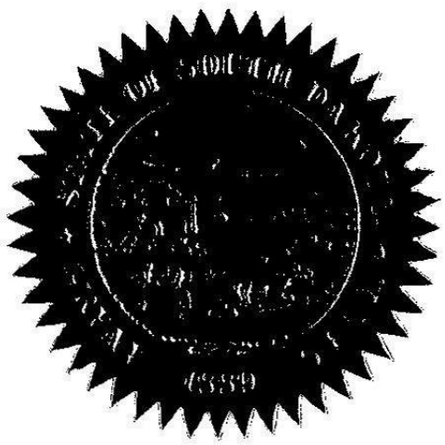
***Whereas,*** The time has come whereby Pastor Tom has answered a new call to ministry and for the people of his congregations to reflect upon his works and to applaud this servant of God entrusted with their spiritual growth and guidance, to recognize him for his commitment; and,

***Whereas,*** It is fitting and proper as Governor to recognize the many accomplishments and years of service of this South Dakotan:

***Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds,*** Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim June 18, 2004, as

## *REVEREND THOMAS OPOIEN DAY*

in South Dakota, and I join Pastor Tom's family, friends and parishioners in wishing him well in his new call.



***In Witness Whereof,*** I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Eighth Day of June in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Four.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

**Attest:**

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State